

Main Street Reisterstown Program

Minutes

Location/Date: Reter's Crabhouse, Reisterstown - September 9, 2013

Attendees: Amy Mantay, Mary Molinaro, Calvin Reter, Irwin Kramer, Pat Brooks, Colleen Brady, Glenn Barnes, Jonathan Schwartz, Paul Davolos, Shirley Smith, Lisa Dibbern, Kathy Gambrell, Officer Willis, Jimmy Roberts, Dave Powers, Ernie Schmidhauser, Carin Smith, Benjamin Brooks, Tony Baysmore, Brad Reter

Amy started the meeting with an update from Dave Kirby with the office of code enforcement. He reported that Handyman on Call received a \$1,500 fine with \$1,400 suspended for 30 days at which time he needs to be in compliance so Dave will be watching. He said that the rear of the property is being handled by the office of sediment control and Dave is focusing on the commercial truck parking and coming and going late into the night. He said that 457 & 424 Main Street were cut by the owners before there was a need to fine them. He said that he visited 405 Homevale and saw the contractor supplies in the rear and the owner has been given a notice that he needs to clear the property. He said that if someone reports a covered car, they are not allowed to lift the cover to check and see if there are tags on the car. 332 Cherry Chapel was cut and 123 Sacred Heart Road is being watched. He said that while there are a few issues our area is actually pretty quiet. Jonathan reminded everyone that the code enforcement office is complaint driven so they do not travel around looking for trouble. Just call and advise them issues. Most of the time, they can take anonymous calls. However, they have problems with the possible boarding house calls as they do not have the manpower to just sit in front of the home. They need someone to report it who is willing to come to a hearing and testify. He reported that 20 Blake Court which had a fire months ago is now being razed. We discussed the bus stop situation and how there is a lot of finger pointing between state and county as to who is responsible. Dave was told that the Hess Station weeds should now be tall enough to site them. There were questions about having the pumps removed from the closed station on the corner of Chartley and Shirley said there is a dispute about trouble with the tanks that may end in a court case and she can't remove them until that is settled. Mary asked when she next expected to cut the culvert as she thinks it's dangerous with no fence or warning that if someone step into the weeds they are actually going to fall about 10 feet. The depth of the culvert is basically hidden. Shirley said it is expensive and she will cut it before the winter. Irwin asked if there is any process to thank people for a "job well done" for people who fix their properties. Dave said that with 9 out of 10 people are doing a fine job, that would be more than their office could consider. Colleen said that the Chambers have a "Do Gooder Program" and we could follow that model as an organization to thank people.

Amy then asked to talk about the weekend events and told everyone about the County Executive, Kevin Kamenetz, coming to Music on Main Street to present a \$10,000.00 grant check to the Cemetery Fund. Kevin also took a tour of the cemetery first with Councilwoman Vicki Almond, their assistants, county employees and the cemetery committee. They were all quite impressed with the uniqueness and historic value of the cemetery as well as the hard work done by their committee clearing and cleaning bricks so they can be reused to build the wall that fell many years ago. Next year will be the 250th Anniversary of the cemetery and we should plan to celebrate. Glenn said he was pleased that they took so much time on the tour and we were able to show Kevin what a successful program the Music on Main Street has been for our community this summer with over 400 people there to watch the

presentation. Pat said Kevin came by the booth and looked at the display of information being shared and was impressed and happy to see the Best of Baltimore picture displayed. Glenn thanked Tony for his efforts to make the visit possible. Last concert this year will be September 20th.

Amy talked about the Reisterstown Festival and said that she was pleased to see everything when she spent her time at the booth Sunday. Mary thanked all the committee chairs for taking a 2 hour shift during the two days (Paul Davolos, Irwin Kramer, Mary Molinaro, Dan Carey, and Amy Mantay represented Colleen who was out of town) and all 5 committees were represented. Also, thanks to Joe Ganem, president of CHA, who helped with the setup Saturday morning and Dave Powers helped break down Sunday evening staying late after his shift. It was a great team effort and many people took information and signed the email list. Several Boy Scout leaders signed and asked if there are opportunities to volunteer for service hours and Mary said she sent the info to Dan Carey for Clean, Safe & Green and Chris Larkins for the cemetery and Corn Roast Festival. Mary updated the People Interested in Main Street spreadsheet and sent it to Amy. We currently have 339 people on the list of which 102 are business owners or organizations, 27 are property owners, and 176 are community members or organizations.

Paul commented that he heard a lot of complaining about the fenced in area at the shopping center when people stopped by the booth while he was there. A discussion ensued about what is going on at the Reisterstown Shopping Center, can anything be done to encourage them to complete the demolition of the property in the fenced area? Amy said she would check and remembers that Andrea checked on it a year ago and not much was said at that time. Glenn said they are looking to fill the space before any more work is done and that Bob Pollokoff who manages the property said that people coming to look are also looking in the Owings Mills area and interested to see what comes to Foundry Row, the Metro Center, and other areas of Reisterstown Road before they commit to Reisterstown. Jonathan said that Vicki Almond was the MC during the parade and felt there was a good turnout. Afterwards she went to the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Owings Mills High School new stadium. He said this is a project Tony also helped with over the last 20 years which cost about \$1M and \$240K came from county funding. Irwin suggested that we consider having helium balloons with a nice saying like "Build a Better Reisterstown" as a draw to bring families over to the booth.

Amy asked for the committee reports:

Mary said that the **organization committee** distributed the proposed budget for the next 4 years to all the officers and board members at the last meeting and everyone was asked to review it for any changes. So far, no one has made a comment about changes.

Paul said the **economic restructuring committee** met last Wednesday and Tim Murphy who is from the Economic Development Office in Baltimore County attended and discussed the activities that we should be doing. He said we need 1) *market research* and Paul showed everyone the brochure developed by the county and mailed to the property owners in the commercial revitalization district. The demographics is outlined in the brochure, 2) *a Main Street website* and we have a presence in the newly launched www.reisterstownimprovementassociation.com website as well as the Baltimore county website www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/reisterstown, 3) *a hard copy newsletter* which we do not have but should work towards in the future, 4) *inventory of businesses and property owners* which we did complete over the last year and are constantly updating, 5) *a vacancy inventory* which we do not

currently have, and 6) *a survey of what consumers want on Main Street*, we need to create and fine tune a vision.

Amy said that the **promotion committee** is working on trick or treating possibility on the Saturday before Halloween from 2-4pm and walking historic tours that weekend and possibly one in November to coincide with the Luminary Event being planned by the Cemetery Committee

Irwin said that the **design committee** is waiting for the SHA traffic study results that were promised by the end of the month. He would like to arrange a meeting with the county to see if we are a priority on their list. In August, the county executive said he wanted a priority list from the planning office and Amy said that has been sent. Secretary Smith said he wants the list by the end of September. The question is still where are we on the list? Without the county backing, it will be much harder to succeed at the state level for the higher amount of money. Irwin feels that we are at the mercy of government to accomplish our goals. Amy itemized three items open still for decisions 1) the SHA traffic study, 2) the priority is in a holding pattern, and 3) getting a maintenance schedule for the current streetscape that was installed years ago. Calvin spoke about an article in the Sun paper listing the projects which were approved this year from the surplus of the gas tax in the state and pointed out that Hampstead received \$20M for a streetscape project of their business district. He wants to know why we didn't get any money since he's been trying to get the remaining money to complete Phase 2 of the last plan for more than 15 years that would extend the historic street lights and brick sidewalks done in Phase 1 from Glyndon to Hannah More. Irwin commented that he didn't begrudge Hampstead but wants to learn how they were able to accomplish it and use some of those techniques for our town. He would like to go back to the SHA with full county backing; so, we can take full advantage of opportunities before windows close. Glenn said that Mike Reiner from the Cow spoke to him about a drawing that was presented to the owner of the property of the old abandoned gas station across the "paper street" showing that SHA wants to create a normal sidewalk situation closing some of the area he has used as a driveway. We were wondering where this project started; since, we were never informed or shown any drawings. Jimmy has said there is some painting of street crossings happening and again we are not being informed. Irwin said "we should get a copy of the memo."

Dan asked Pat to give the report before he left for the **clean, safe, and green committee**. She reported that they participated in the parade picking up the trash along the way even though there were only 3 people to start and then 5 to finish. She said there were a lot of people clapping when they saw the banner Dan created to carry from the sign. He also provided everyone who has helped on the committee with shirts. They had a good time walking; but, wish there were more volunteers to pick up trash. They did ask people as they walked to "please pick up the areas where they sat."

Glenn announced that yesterday Danny Carey, Chris Larkins and Billy Larkins worked for many hours to dig the two areas where the next benches, trash cans and flower pots will be installed. He wanted to thank them for all the hard work. One bench will be located on the corner where Jiffy Lube operates as Lewis Foundation agreed to allow the installation. The other bench will be up on Cockeys Mill Road near the Ski Shoppe.

Mary handed out fliers for the Chartley Yard Sale Day to be held throughout the community on September 21st and asked everyone to come have fun shopping. She also handed out fliers for the Crab Feast that will be held Saturday, September 21st in the evening (5:30pm-8:30pm) at the American Legion Hall and encouraged everyone to bring family and friends for a table of 8 which is the best price opportunity. Calvin had tickets for anyone ready to purchase.

Summer events

Clean-ups –October 5th , November 2nd , and December 7th 9am – 11am.

Music on Main Street – Final Concert Friday, September 20th 7pm – 9:30pm

Farmers Market –Sundays, June 2nd to October 6th 10am-2pm
358-360 Main Street

Facebook/website (on-going)

Over 488 friends view our Facebook posts! Double the number we had in May

The next meeting will be held at Reter's Crabhouse, Monday, Sept. 23 , 2013 at 10am.